

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 711

By Massey

A RESOLUTION honoring the Nashville Local Organizing
Committee for the 2014 NCAA Division I
Women's Final Four.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize the Nashville Organizing Committee's efforts that will generate more than \$25 million dollars of economic impact to the State of Tennessee and will promote women's athletics; and

WHEREAS, the hard work and dedication of the committee first began in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City of Nashville was named the host city in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Local Organizing Committee was officially formed in August 2010; and

WHEREAS, the NCAA Final Four is one of American's most prestigious women's championship sporting events and ends with the crowning of the national champion, the pinnacle experience for the student-athletes, coaches, and fans; and

WHEREAS, NCAA women's basketball is characterized by strong fundamentals, high quality of play, sportsmanship, role model student-athletes, and family oriented entertainment; and

WHEREAS, three basketball games will be played at Bridgestone Arena over three days, including two national semifinals on Sunday, April 6th, and the National Championship on Tuesday, April 8th, games that will garner the national media spotlight; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Organizing Committee created the most extensive legacy program in the history of the Women's Final Four to empower young female athletes by enabling them to become leaders within their own teams and communities; these programs,

whose impact will last for years after the final game is played, include art, poetry, song-writing, leadership, media awareness, community services, reading, film, and science; and

WHEREAS, the committee, through the NCAA Community Outreach 100, offers youth-centric educational initiatives that are designed to enhance the neighborhoods of Nashville by teaching youth about social responsibility through service learning and encouraging participation in volunteer opportunities and existing projects to foster a lifelong commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, the committee has created and launched an interactive website that showcases and honors female athletes from all walks of life and all levels of ability; it serves as a forum for sharing the triumphs, struggles, and inspiration that motivates them to give it their all, each and every day; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the games, a number of ancillary events are planned for the Women's Final Four weekend, including the Salute on Tour Premiere at the Ryman Auditorium, the 4Kay Run, the NCAA Youth Clinics, Tourney Town, Broadway Bounce, Battle of the Bands, the NCAA Pep Rally, and many more; and

WHEREAS, the committee raised over \$2.9 million, the most ever raised in support of a Women's Final Four; and

WHEREAS, the committee is composed of several community leaders who have generously volunteered many hours to this effort; and

WHEREAS, the honorary co-chairs of the committee are the First Lady of the State of Tennessee, Crissy Haslam, and the First Lady of the City of Nashville, Anne Davis; and

WHEREAS, the leadership team includes Commissioner of the Ohio Valley Conference, Beth DeBauche; Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors; and attorney Margaret Behm; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the Nashville Local Organizing Committee for its outstanding efforts and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.